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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/9/02 1:43pm
Subject: MS settlement contrary to public interest

Hello,

I am a long time IT professional. I use Microsoft products very extensively and have done so through my career. I respect their products and feel they have done many things well.

However, Microsoft's monopolistic practices are blatant, longstanding, and highly damaging. I still recall the false bug MS introduced in Windows 3.1 to cripple the superior DR DOS. Microsoft's behavior has not changed. Their bundling of products into their Windows operating system, where they have near complete control in the market, marches on unabated - squashing products should have the choice to use. Internet Explorer's dominance in the market over Netscape is a very recent case where their practices are blatant and now with Windows XP they continue their monopoly exercise with the bundling of their multi-media software (attacking RealPlayer), Passport, and Hailstorm. An operating system is an infrastructure distinct from the applications and it is long standing good programming practice that such components be "loosely coupled" to reduce unwanted interdependencies (and MS practiced this despite the baldfaced lie that Internet Explorer could not be removed from Windows).

It is as if General Motors owned the highways and decided suddenly to change the lane size, and not coincidentally, they are the only ones that sell cars that fit.

The settlement does nothing to address these very serious issues. In fact all it does is incentivize the company to extend its monopoly into education - one of the few places which Microsoft has not yet taken over.

As an IT professional and member of the general public I find the DOJ's settlement to be a grave disservice to the public.

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